

IN THE CLAIMS

A1 Sub E 17
4. (Amended) A method as in claim 3 wherein step b) further includes the step of:

ii) [i)] automatically generating the Internet page description file when communication with the host computer is indicated.

A2
17. (Amended) A computer-readable medium as in claim 15 wherein a portion of the images in the digital camera are stored as a compressed image files, [instruction d)] further including the instruction of:

d) executing the Java files on the host computer for decompressing the compressed image files and for extracting information from the image files for display by the web browser.

18. (Amended) A computer-readable medium as in claim 17 further including the [to] instruction of:

e) storing the images displayed in web browser on the host computer by copying the compressed image files from the digital camera directly to the host computer.

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated August 30, 2000, the deadline to which has been extended one (1) month by petition and payment of fee submitted herewith.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. Applicants have amended claims 4, 17 and 18 to correct informal matters. Consequently, claims 1-20 remain pending in the present application.

In the above-referenced Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 2 and 4 as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112. Claims 2 and 4 used the same nomenclature to designate different substeps. Applicants have amended claim 4 such that it refers to substep “ii)” as opposed to “i).” Accordingly, Applicants submit that the rejection under section 112 has been overcome.

In the same Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 8, 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Narayan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,035,323). Claims 2-5, 9-10, 14-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Narayan in view of Cohen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,805,829). The Examiner rejected claims 6-7 and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Narayan in view of Wang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,058,428). In rejecting independent claim 1, the Examiner stated:

Regarding independent claim 1, Narayan discloses:
 generating an Internet page description file in the image capture device that references the images stored therein (figure 1)
 mounting the image capture device as a disk on the host computer (figure 4, col 6, lines 31-38)
 opening the Internet page description file in a web browser on the host computer, wherein the images stored in the image capture device are displayed on the host computer through the web browser without the need for loading camera-specific communication software onto the host computer (figure 4, col 7, lines 14-48).

The Examiner also stated that “[c]laims 8, 13 are for the system and the computer-readable medium of the method claim 1, and therefore are rejected under the same rationale.”

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner’s rejection. The present invention provides a method and system for viewing images from a digital camera on a personal computer (“PC”) without having to first load camera-specific software onto the PC. More particularly, the images stored on the digital camera may be viewed from the PC using a standard web browser and operating system functionality, which leverages the software already included on most

computers. This is accomplished by automatically generating an HTML file in the camera that references the images stored in the camera, and by connecting the digital camera to the PC as a mass storage device. That way, the HTML file is easily accessible by the computer's web browser, whereby the user may view the camera images through the web browser. Accordingly, the present invention eliminates the requirement that the camera user load camera-specific software onto the host before being able to view the camera images.

Independent claim 1 recites:

- 1 A method for viewing images from an image capture device on a host computer, comprising steps of:
 - a) establishing communication between the image capture device and the host computer;
 - b) automatically generating an Internet page description file in the image capture device that references the images stored therein;
 - c) mounting the image capture device as a disk on the host computer; and
 - d) opening the Internet page description file in a web browser on the host computer, wherein the images stored in the image capture device are displayed on the host computer through the web browser without the need for loading camera-specific communication software onto the host computer.

Independent claim 8 is a system claim of similar scope to claim 1. Claim 13, recites:

13. A computer-readable medium containing program instructions for viewing images from a digital camera on a host computer, the program instructions for:
 - a) automatically generating an HTML file that references the images stored in the digital camera;
 - b) establishing a Universal Serial Bus (USB) connection between the digital camera and the host computer; and
 - c) identifying the digital camera to the host computer as a mass storage device class whereby the digital camera appears to the host computer as a disk, thereby allowing a user to open the HTML file in a web browser on the host computer, wherein the images stored in the digital camera are displayed on the host computer through the web browser without the need for loading camera-specific communication software onto the host computer.

Narayan, in contrast, is directed to the distribution of a collection of digital media, such as images from a digital camera, over a network, such as the Internet. In Narayan, digital images

are downloaded from the digital camera into “a digital processing system, such as a computer system.” (Col. 6, lines 31-34). The user then stores the original images acquired from the camera in the digital processing system. “The storage in the database typically is performed by a picture management system which is typically a separate piece of software which creates and stores the data object for each digital image and also which maintains the database.” (Col. 6, lines 52-56). According to Narayen, the picture management system can guide the user through the process of creating a picture album “by selecting a layout and the pictures for the album and . . . transmit[ing] the necessary information to another computer system, such as a server computer system, which then automatically generates the viewable pages.” (Col. 7, lines 22-26).

Although the present invention and Narayen are directed to generating Internet pages that reference images from a digital camera, Narayen fails to teach or suggest the present invention as recited in claims 1, 8 and 13. In particular, Narayen does not teach or suggest “automatically generating an Internet page description file *in the image capture device* that references the images stored *therein*.” Narayen teaches generating the viewable pages in a computer system after acquiring the images *from* the digital camera. (Col. 7, lines 40-44). Figure 1 of Narayen, relied upon by the Examiner, shows a method for making an image from a digital camera available for viewing over the Internet to web browsers. (Col. 1, lines 54-56). Nothing in Figure 1 teaches or suggests that an Internet page is generated in the digital camera. In fact, the process “requires at least two software programs *at the computer system* which first acquires the digital image.” (Col. 1, lines 43-44).

Nothing in Narayen teaches or suggests that the computer system, which generates the viewable page, and the digital camera, which captures the image, are one and the same. Indeed, it is clear from Figure 1 that the computer system is not an image capture device because if it

were, step 10, which teaches *acquiring* an image from a digital camera, would be unnecessary. Accordingly, Narayen fails to mention or suggest “generating [the viewable pages] in the image capture device that references the images stored therein,” as recited in claims 1, 8 and 13.

Moreover, Narayen does not teach or suggest “mounting the image capture device as a *disk* on the host computer,” as recited in the claims. By mounting the image capture device so that it appears to the host computer as a disk, the user may access the device without loading camera-specific software. As a mass storage device, the image capture device appears as a “drive” available to the PC. So by double-clicking the “My Computer” icon on the windows desktop, the user causes the “My Computer” window to open and show all the drives available to the PC, including the image capture device. (Specification, page 11, lines 16-19). The computer can then open the image capture device to access the Internet page description file (HTML file) in the camera using a standard web browser. (Specification, page 11, lines 2-4; 20-24 to page 12, lines 1-3). Accordingly, the images can be viewed in the browser without the need for loading specialty software onto the host computer.

In the portion of Narayen cited by the Examiner, the “user inputs digital images from a digital acquisition device, such as a digital camera, into a digital processing system the user makes selections in a file saving dialog box presented to the user on a display of the computer system in order to store the original images to the file storage device, such as a hard disk.” (Col. 6, lines 32-43). Thus, although there is a *connection* between the digital camera and the digital processing system, nothing in Narayen teaches or suggests “mounting the image capture device *as a disk on the host computer*,” as recited in claims 1, 8 and 13. Connecting devices is fundamentally different from “mounting” a device onto a computer so that the device appears as a disk. Indeed, due in part to this failure, Narayen requires “a picture management system which

is typically a separate piece of software which creates and stores the data object for each digital image and also which maintains the database.” (Col. 6, lines 52-56). The present invention, in contrast, requires no such “camera-specific communication software,” as recited in claims 1, 8 and 13.

Finally, Narayen does not teach or suggest “opening the Internet page description file in a web browser on the host computer,” as recited in the claims. As described above, the HTML file in the camera in accordance with the present invention may be opened in a standard web browser on the host PC, and the images stored on the camera can then be displayed by the web browser. (Specification, page 11, lines 2-4). In the portions of Narayen cited by the Examiner, Narayen teaches that “the picture management system transmits the necessary information to another computer system, such as a server computer system, which then automatically generates the viewable pages.” (Col. 7, lines 23-26). “These pages are then made available to a web server which allows other client computer systems . . . to view the HTML pages.” (Col. 7, lines 44-48). Accordingly, in Narayen the HTML pages are sent or distributed to other computers from the server. The pages are not opened “in a web browser on the *host computer*,” as recited in claims 1, 8, and 13. Rather, the HTML pages are sent from the host to a server and then to “other client systems.” Accordingly, Narayen fails to teach or suggest the present invention as recited in claims 1, 8, and 13.

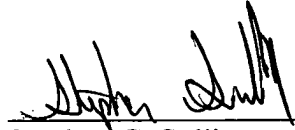
Claims 2-7, 9-12, and 14-20 depend on independent claims 1, 8, and 13 respectively. Accordingly, the arguments above apply with equal force to the dependent claims. Applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that claims 2-7, 9-12, and 14-20 are allowable over the cited references.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the claims in the application are patentable

over the cited reference and are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and objections is requested.

Applicant's attorney believes that this application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen G. Sullivan", is written over a horizontal line.

Stephen G. Sullivan
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 38,329
(650) 493-4540